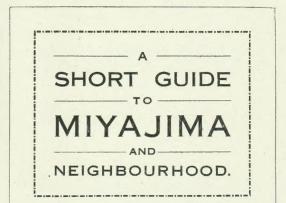
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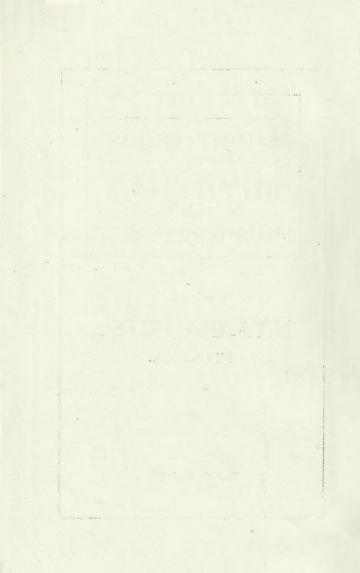
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THIRD EDITION 1918.



NOW OPEN

MIYAJIMA HOTEL, MIYAJIMA.

INLAND SEA JAPAN.



MIYAJIMA HOTEL, MIYAJIMA.

T. YOSHIĐA, MANAGER.

The Miyajima Hotel, formerly the Mikado Hotel, occupies a lofty position, near the beach, at the entrance to the Omoto Park, in a beautiful spot opposite the mainland.



BEACH NEAR THE MIYAJIMA HOTEL.

The sea breezes, fountains, running water and deep shade, make it cool in Summer and the treeclad hills shelter it from the cold blasts of winter. Guests may stay in the new hotel building, appointed in the most modern style, or in one of the Japanese bungalows scattered about the grounds, along the valley. These contain from one to four large rooms and are furnished in Japanese or European style, also

private bath and toilet rooms are attached. They afford the seclusion of home, combined with the excellent service of a good hotel.

The building is an adaptation of the old palace style, as it was judged unsuitable to put up a purely foreign hotel in that particular spot where it would have been out of harmony with its surroundings. In the building are the ladies drawing room, balcony and observation tower, all looking out on the splendid Inland-Sea and park.

The dining room occupies the first floor of the building facing the sea. The visitors are waited upon by waitresses in gorgeous bright kimonos. All bed rooms are fitted throughout with hot and cold water, electric lights and electric fans.

Special precautions are adopted for safety in case of fire as there are many ways of escaping from the first and second floors.

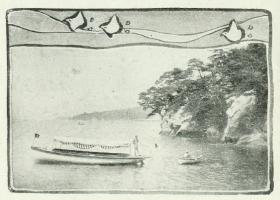
There is a bar, tennis court and summer house in the landscape garden where tea is served in fine weather.

Trains are met at Miyajima on the mainland by a hotel porter, who takes charge of luggage, and conducts guests to the comfortable hotel motorlaunch, by which they cross in a few minutes the

[3]

half-mile of Inland Sea to the hotel on the island.

Cuisine. Special attention is given to the excellence of food and water. The water supply of the hotel, coming from mountain streams, is cool, fresh, pure and perfectly safe to drink. Fresh milk and dairy produce of excellent quality are supplied daily from the mainland. The milk is sterilised before use.



BATHING BEACH NEAR HOTEL.

Bathing. Splendid sea-bathing is to be had from one of the bathing beaches in front of the hotel; there are bathing-bungalow with dressing rooms; boats or sampans are always available for those who

prefer a plunge and a swim in deep water.

Tennis. The Tennis Court is on a plateau immediately beyond the hotel.

The Motor Launch, thirty feet long, with an eleven H. P. Motor, and capable of carrying twenty persons, is available for trips round the island and to neighbouring places. Also, sampans and sailing boats for fishing and picnic excursions.

Chairs and bearers are ready at all times for the ascent of Mt. Misen and for visits to the many places of interest on the island.

As a summer health resort Miyajima is an ideal spot. Pure air, fragrant with the scent of pines, cool sea breezes, shady cypress-trees; lovely walks along clambering paths, up pine-clad hill-sides, by murmuring streams and tumbling cascades; or round the coast, inset with lovely bays; winding up and down over hill and valley, with changing views of woodland and sea, and the hills of the mainland beyond.

"The abundance of conifers, the disintegrated granite soil, the absence of agriculture, combine to keep the air singularly pure and the water limpid" (Murray's Hand-book of Japan).

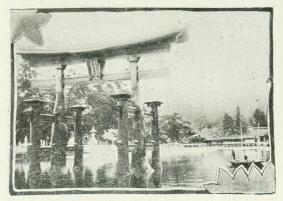
The temperature is never unbearably high, and the nights are cool.

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Special terms are offered for visitors and families staying in the hotel during the summer months.

MIYAJIMA.

Miyajima is one of the San-Kei, or Three Beautiful Scenes of Japan. The other two are Ama-nohashidate, a long narrow pine-clad strip of sand near Miyazu on the northern coast of the mainland; and Matsushima, a group of hundreds of pine-clad islets in Shiogama Bay, off the eastern coast of the mainland.



GREAT TORII.

Miyajima is the most easily accessible of the three for travellers through Japan by rail, being on the

direct line from Nagasaki, or Moji and Shimonoseki, to Kobe, Yokohama and Tokyo, while the other two are far out of the regular line of travel.

How to reach Miyajima.

From the west. From Nagasaki the Kyushu Railway connects with the Sanyo Line at Shimonoseki by steam-ferry across the straits from Moji. Travellers by steamer from Nagasaki to Moji are landed directly at the Shimonoseki railway station. An official railway guide arranges the transport of luggage, takes tickets, and smooths away difficulties.

From the east. There is direct communication by rail from Tokyo, Yokohama and Kobe to Miyajima. Those who prefer to come by sea from Moji and Shimonoseki or from Kobe may do so by one of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamers. On some of these, European accommodation is provided. There are two services a day from each place.

The Island of Miyajima.

Miyajima or Itsukushima is about 5 miles long from East to West : $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles across from North to South. It rises to a height of more than 1300 feet ; is rocky and beautifully wooded with pine, cypress,

cherry, maple and other kinds of trees. Lovely valleys extend down to the sea; and in these, amidst maple groves, nestle the inns and tea-houses for pilgrims, and the dwellings of fishermen and image carvers who, with the priests and inn-keepers, make up the population of the Island.

For more than 18 centuries, according to tradition, Miyajima has been a sacred island, as its name Miyajima Temple Island, indicates. Until the Restoration of the Mikados in 1868, births and deaths were forbidden on the Island. When they were about to occur, the mother and child, or the body as the case might be, were removed to the



SACRED DEER.

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mainland hastily, in order to avoid ceremonial impurity. This air of sacredness still exists. The lives of the people centre round the temple, one of the chief seats of Shinto Worship in the Empire. There are shops where necessities of life, and curios of various kinds, especially carved wooden ware, are sold, but the ugly spirit of commercialism is absent.

The Sacred Deer. The deer wandering about the Island and village are sacred, and no one is allowed to kill them. They are tame enough to feed from the hand. On account of the deer, dogs are not allowed on the Island; but permits may be obtained from the police-office by those who wish to keep them at the hotel.

The Temple.

The Miyajima Temple or Itsukushima Jinja is dedicated to three goddesses—Itsukushima-hime, Tagori-hime and Togitsu-hime, daughters of Susano-o. The first building of a temple on the present site dates from the reign of the Empress Suiko, A. D. 592—Fascinating legends are associated with this early foundation. The goddesses, desiring a habitation on the island, appeared to a man, Saeki-no-Kuramoto, and ordered him to make their wishes known to the

Empress. As proof of the truth of the vision they told him that a strange star would appear at the capital and that a crow bearing a twig of Sakaki, the sacred cleyera tree of Shintoism, would arrive, and present the twig to the Empress. All fell out according to prediction, and the Empress commissioned Saeki-no-Kuramoto to build the temple.

The crow having aided the goddesses of Itsukushima, had a shrine built in its honour, by an old man from Hiranosato, and there the spirit of the crow was worshipped. Then the crow declared "As you have worshipped me here in this manner, I will return, and I and my descendants will serve the goddesses of Itsukushima as sacred crows forever."



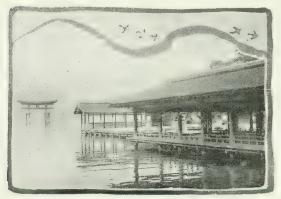
FRONT OF THE TEMPLE.

These crows live on the summit of Mt. Misen, and are said to be nobler in mien and manner than their common companions, to have a touch of white beneath their wings, and to be worshipped by the crows of the neighbourhood. Yearly, on September 18th, at the "Hayatani-no-Jinja" (Parting from Offspring Temple) certain rites are performed. At this time the four sacred crows, two old and two young, descend to the place. At evening the young return to Misen to serve as sacred crows, the old to their ancestral home in Kii where the priests are performing the ceremony of "Waiting for the return of the crows."

Before the temple, standing at high tide in the sea is the great red "Torii" or "Sacred Shinto Gateway." This is a favourite motive in Japanese art. The Torii is built of camphor wood—the main pillars each of one great trunk. It is peculiar in having two pillars at each side of the main ones to strengthen them. This Torii was built in 1875 the inscription on tablet was written by the late Prince Arisngawa Taruhito. Its height is nearly 45 feet, and the length of its transverse beam 73 feet.

The temple itself is partly built over the sea on piles, and at high tide appears to float upon the

water. Galleries 888 feet long, and 14 feet wide stretch out like spreading wings into the sea on both sides of the temple. The main temple—the Honsha or Honden—consists of three parts : the inmost where the goddesses dwell; the inner where only priests enter; the outer, an open railed space where worshippers are admitted, and where the ordinary dances of the temple are performed by dancing girls. The passage way in front of the temple gives a view of many things used in the rites of Shinto worship, such as drums, spears, mirrors, "gohei" or strips of paper, brocade and banners. In front of the temple



KAIRO OR GALLERIES.

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is a large open air platform where festival dances are performed.

The Morning Room.

The "Morning Room" or "Asazaya" near the Eastern entrance was originally the place where offerings of food were prepared for the goddesses and gods, but is now used as a museum. The relics consist of masks and costumes used in the "Bugaku" festival dances, armour and swords of noted warriors, pictures and old manuscripts by great men, ancient images and religious paraphernalia, etc.

Daikoku and Tenjin.

Along the western gallery are two shrines dedicated, the one to Okuni-nushi or Daikoku, one of the oldest and greatest of Shinto gods; the other to Tenjin, who was the noted Sugawara-no-Michizane, of the 10th century, when living. He has now become the god of writing. School-boys pray to him and offer "fude" writing brushes at his shrine.

The Sacred Horse.

Opposite the main entrance is the stable of the sacred horse. The first was presented by General

Taira-no-Kiyomori, and its successors by various donors as needed. Shinto divinities prefer white steeds : therefore the horse always becomes white in time, no matter what its original colour may have been. Two fine bronze statues of the sacred horse cast in Osaka, stand behind the temple.



ARCHED BRIDGE.

The Arched Bridge.

Near the western entrance is an arched bridge, used only by the Imperial messenger with Imperial offerings or orders for special prayers. The arch is said to symbolise the rainbow, or "Bridge of Heaven" of Japanese mythology.



The Pigeons.

Outside the western entrance flock the sacred pigeons. These perch on the hands and arms of

anyone who will feed them with a handful of grain, supplied for the purpose by an old woman. They gather in great numbers at the sound of her bell.



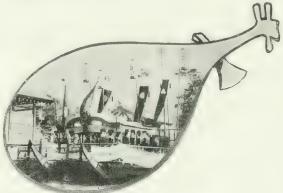
Festivals.

The principal festivals are New Year (Shinnen-Sai) January 1st-3rd. Special offerings are presented and prayers recited. Afterwards "Bugaku" a religious mask dance is performed for 3 or 4 hours.

Peach Bloom (Toka-Sai) April 16th-18th. The ceremony takes place after sunset. Peach blossoms are offered to the goddesses, and afterwards

scenes of "Bugaku" are performed for 3 or 4 hours. On the three following days "No," another religious dance is performed.

Purification for First Half Year (Oharai) June 30th. The priests bear to the front of the temple a piece of pure white linen; after praying that the sins of the people may be purged away; they tear it in pieces and cast it into the sea to be borne out by the tide.



SACRED BOATS.

Music Festival (Kwangen-Sai) O. S. June 7th. This commemorates the visits of the Emperors Takakura and Goshirakawa, when their boats, ac-

companied by sacred boats containing the "Shintai," or symbol of the goddess, were drawn about the bay to the strains of music. Three new boats bearing a platform upon which is set a shrine for the Shintai, are fastened together; the divine mirror is placed at the stern, the sacred sword and spears at the bow. The boats are decorated with lanterns, the priests wear ceremonial robes, even the boatmen wear the caps and robes of Shinto priesthood. In the afternoon the boats cross to the mainland to a dwelling of the goddess. Ceremonies with music and dancing are performed. In the evening at full tide they start for home while dancing and singing continue on the platform about the shrine. On reaching the hotel beach, the chief priest worships at the Omoto Shrine. The boats are rowed around three times while rendering the ceremonial music. On returning to the temple, the boats pass through great red " Torii " and proceed to a shrine of one of the guest gods. Again they are towed three times about the bay, and are at last brought in front of the main temple. The Shintai is carried in, and the celebration is over. This is the largest festival of the year and attracts crowds of people to the island.



BALL CASTING FESTIVAL.

BALL CATCHING. (Tama-Tori-Sai or Ennen-Sai) O. S. July 15th. This is of Buddhist origin and takes the form rather of a holiday sport. On a swinging platform set up in the sea is placed a sacred wooden ball about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference. At full tide a priest swings the platform by means of a rope and the ball drops into the sea. Immediately the crowd of men and boys on the beach plunge in after it. The successful one takes the ball to the priests and is rewarded with the ball and gifts. He also attains life-long happiness.

Purification for Second Half Year. (Oharai)

December 31st. The rites are the same as those of June 30th.

Fire Extinguishing (Otaimatsu) December 31st. This is of Shinto origin and observed almost as a holiday at the end of the year. The festival commences at 6 P.M. hundred of men and boys who are holding the various torches in their hands assemble at the eastern entrance of the temple, and march back and forth from the temple to the town for one hour, after the festival the torch of each bearer is placed in front of his house to protect it from fire and there it remains until the 3rd January. When it is taken into the house and kept until the return of the festal day next year.

Buddhist Temple.

The Buddhist Temple--" Dai-Gwanji" stands on the western side of the Shinto temple. It contains relics, some of which are national treasures.

The Hall of a Thousand Mats.

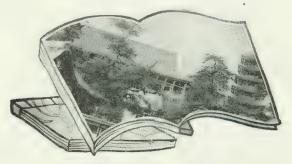
(Sen-Jo-Jiki) stands on Tortoise Hill--Kamei-Yama-to the East of the temple. Its name is simply a picturesque way of describing a large room. Its dimensions are 65 by 120 feet, and it would contain



THE HALL OF A THOUSAND MATS.

about 450 mats of the ordinary size. It was built by Great Taiko out of the wood of a single camphortree, as a thank-offering after his Chosen Campaign at the end of the 16th century. It was used for Buddhist worship before the Reformation when Buddhist priests were expelled from Shinto shrine.

Before the China-Japanese War soldiers were quartered there on their way to the front. Some of them, as a token of their determination to conquer (Meshi-toru) China, hung rice-ladles (Meshi-tori) on the pillars of the Hall. Other soldiers, and even civilian visitors have followed the fashion for luck, and now the hall is covered with ladles from floor to ceiling.



PAGODA AND SEN-JO-JIKI.

THE PAGODAS. East of the Hall of a Thousand Mats stands a five-storied pagoda, 100 feet in height: it was built in 1408 by Hida-no-Takumi, and contained an image of the Buddha. This also was removed at the Reformation.

There is a small two-storied pagoda on a hill on the way to the Omoto Park.

War Relics.

Behind the temple stands a Russian gun captured on the famous 203 Metre Hill at Port Arthur. Near by stands part of the steel sheathing of the mast of the Japanese man-of-war, "Kasuga," as she came out of the battle of the Japan Sea.

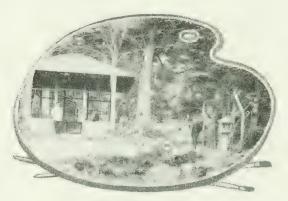


THE MAPLE VALLEY-Momijidani—lies to the South of the temple and is famous for the beauty of the cherry blossoms in spring, and for the exquisite tints of leaves of the maple in autumn.

THE MAPLE VALLEY.

A beautiful stream, the Mitarai-gawa flows through the valley round weird and fantastic rocks, under curious bridges.

The Omoto-Park stretches up from the hotel between the hills. Huge rocks and great cypress trees give it grandeur which contrasts vividly with the gentle beauty of the Maple Valley.



THE OMOTO PARK.

Mt. Misen.

Mt. Misen is the highest point of the island, 1789 feet above the sea. Steps have been built all the way up by the late Prince Ito, so that the climb is not a difficult one. From the first tea-house—the Satomi-no-chaya—there is a fine view of the temple and village below; at many spots on the way up beautiful glimpses of sea and shore are visible.

From the summit is obtained a magnificent panorama of the Inland Sea and its numerous pine clad islands. Six cho from the top is a Buddhist temple gateway—the Ni-O-Mon or "Gate of Two

Kings." The spot above was chosen for a temple by Kōbo Daishi on his return from China, and the fire lit there 1100 years ago by this great saint, has never been allowed to go out. Buddhist pilgrims of the Shingon sect come here and spend the night, performing rites prescribed at the founding of the temple by Kōbo Daishi.



Mr. MISEN

Near the temple is a Shinto shrine on the spot where in 666 B. C., Jimmu Tenno—the first earthly Mikado—ordered a shrine to be built for the worship of Itsukushima-hime and her companion goddesses.

In a neighbouring rock is a spring called Mearaiyakushi or "Eye Medicine Spring"—the water is said to be efficacious in curing eye-diseases.

The Trip Round the Island.

This is a beautiful excursion and takes about 2 hours by motor launch, 5 or 6 hours by sailing-boat. There are seven famous sea-shores and at several places miniature red torii, leading to Shinto shrines where priests keep watch. The round trip of these sights is called Shimameguri.

At evening, on the northern slopes of the island, may be seen a flock of herons returning from the mainland to roost.

The feeding of the sacred crows is particularly interesting. The priests conduct parties at any time for a certain sum. A start is made from the temple in the morning going toward the East. There are three boats—one for the priests and their attendants, one for the guests, and a third for provisions. All members of the party must be ceremonially clean or the crows will not come down to feed. After priestly worship at the temple the party goes to Sugi-no-Ura where rites are performed and breakfast is eaten. The seven beaches, the Nana-Ura are then visited.

At five of them food is eaten, at three rites are performed. The food is rice cooked with five other ingredients, and is called Shichigo-san-no-gochiso "or The Feast of Seven, Five, Three." Off the shore of Yabu-saki the priests chant, and the crows descend from their nests on Mt Misen and take the Dango, or small dumplings, offered. There are nine of these Dango, placed upon an earthern vessel, set upon a one-foot-square tray, which in turn rests upon a raft three feet square, floating on the water. During nesting season only one crow comes down, as the hen is sitting. A little later the two old, and the two young also.



DANCING GIRLS.

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After the September ceremony at the Hayatanino-Jinja (Parting from Offspring Temple) only the two younger come down, the elder ones having returned to their ancestral home in Kii.

Miyajima Geisha Girl Dances.

DANCES. Special dances are performed in Miyajima similer to, but distinct from the "Miyako Odori" or "Cherry Dance" at Kyoto. They are very graceful and may be seen in the hotel dining room by special application to the hotel office.

Trips to Neighbouring Places.

Hiroshima is about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour by train, or an hour and a half by motor launch from Miyajima. It is one of the chief military stations in the Empire. Beautiful views are obtained from the summits of Hijiyama and Futabayama Park.

The Sentei, a famous large garden belonging to Marquis Asano, is one of the finest of its kind in Japan. It is open to visitors during the day. The Fudō-in, an old Buddhist temple is about two miles up the river from the Sentei. It was brought from Chosen by Hideyoshi. Through a hole in one of the pillars may be heard boiling the cauldrons of Hell.



SENTEI, HIROSHIMA.

The Hiroshima Girls' School, the largest missionschool for girls in Japan, and the Hiroshima Normal College, a government college, where youths are trained for positions in secondary schools, are worth visiting by those interested in education.

Kure,—ten miles beyond Hiroshima is the largest naval station of Japan. The harbour is beautiful. Visitors are not allowed within the arsenal and navy-yard without special permit.

Iwakuni is 40 minutes by train, or 1½ hours by motor-launch from Miyajima. The famous Kintai-Kyo or Soroban-Bashi (Abacus Bridge)

crosses the Nishiki River. It is built in the arched style and contains five spans. The cherry blossoms and wistaria of Iwakuni Park are noted for their beauty in their season.



THE KINTAI-KYO, IWAKUNI.

The Seto Inland Sea, Mitearai and Kamagari-Jima. The Seto is the loveliest part of the Inland Sea, and is best seen from one of the Inland Sea coasting-steamers which call at Miyajima.

MITE-ARAI AND KAMA-GARI-JIMA are reached by these steamers and are famous for the beauty of their plum and orange blossoms.

Beppu Hot Mineral Spring in Kyushu are reached by steamer in about 9 hours through some of the most picturesque parts of the Inland Sea.

Dogo Hot Mineral Spring in Shikoku near Matsuyama, whose port is Takahama, is reached by steamer from Miyajima in about 5 hours.

The Akiyoshi Caves are near Yamaguchi 65 miles by train from Miyajima on the way to Shimonoseki.

Jiagui is a beautiful river valley near Miyajima on the mainland. It may be visited by those found of walking, for there are no other good means of communication.

Kobe from Miyajima by steamer, or by train, is a delightful trip. From Miyajima to Takahama by one of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamers, and from there a short trip by train to the Dogo Hot Spring is also an interesting trip. Returning to Takahama, the next stage is by steamer to Tadotsu, whence a short trip may be made to the Kompira Shrine. From Tadotsu one goes by steamer again to Takamatsu to see the famous Ritsurin Park (Chestnut Grove). From Takamatsu take steamer to Kobe, or as first by steamer to Okayama to see the garden there, and thence to Kobe by train.

The same trip may be made from Kobe to Miyajima

Suggested Programme of visit to Miyajima and Neighbourhood.

First Day. The temple and its museum, the Hall of Thousand Mats, the Pagodas, Parks and other places of interest about the town.

Second Day. Ascent of Mt. Misen.

<u>Third Day.</u> Trip round the Island by motor launch, or by boat with the priest to see feeding of Sacred Crows.

- Fourth Day. Hiroshima by motor-launch or by train.
- Fifth Day. Iwakuni by motor launch, or by train.

Sixth Day. Akiyoshi Caves.

Seventh and Eighth Days. Beppu Hot Spring. Ninth Day. Jiagui (for good walkers).

Tenth Day. Seto Inland Sea, Mitearai and Kamagari-Jima (in season).

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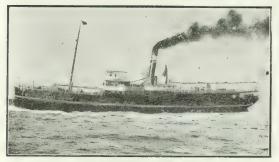


THE CHARMS OF THE INLAND SEA

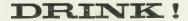
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